

This has been a very trying few months for the residents of Griffith. Mother Nature has not been kind to our town lately. We were hit by a tornado and violent storms on August 4. And 40 days later, we were hit with torrential rains lasting almost 3 days that dumped approximately 10 inches of rain on the town.

The trees and debris from the tornado in August have been cleared. The waters have subsided from our streets caused by the recent storms. However, the destruction left behind remains. It is almost incomprehensible that our small town should have to endure so much havoc over such a short period of time. The people of Griffith are tough and our spirit will not be broken.

While all these disasters have left many residents reeling, it is important for all citizens to understand that the Town of Griffith stands behind you. We cannot control the winds or the rains, but we can control our agenda to address the rebuilding and restoration efforts of those affected by the tornado and flooding.

In early 2008, the Griffith Town Council commissioned an engineering firm to do a comprehensive study of our storm water flow system. Data has been collected during the spring and summer months by placing flow meters in the underground storm sewers. Smoke testing of the underground infrastructure is also scheduled. These studies will provide insight to any flaws of our infrastructure and provide the Town with recommendations that will identify corrective measures that should be taken.

We are working very quickly and diligently to determine the causes of any home or street flooding that may occur during a rain event. If corrective action is suggested by the studies, we will act swiftly.

The weather is not the only serious matter facing our town. We are currently in a battle against the CN Railroad's proposal to acquire the EJ&E Railroad.

Additionally, there will be a referendum on our November ballot that will determine the fate of the Calumet Town Assessor's Office (please refer to the home page at www.Griffith.in.gov for more info)

Griffith is a wonderful community made up of truly good people. Property taxes are coming down and exciting things are happening with new business development. Our future is before us. We will recover from these recent disasters and become stronger and better than ever before.